



energy

Barry
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Tune-up will help an air conditioner

Most of us own a house that is not up to current insulating and passive energy standards.

For a look at what someone can do with a 23-year-old bungalow, visit Ronald Selik this weekend. He will be holding an open house — in his house — at 1209 Columbia in Berkeley.

Selik, who works for Star-Pak, the solar folks in Novato, estimates what he has done to his house will save \$700 a year in energy costs. The price to you or me would be \$3,000-\$5,000 on a typical house — before state and federal tax credits.

During the open house, Selik will be holding workshops on solar energy for home heating and water heating, and on energy-conservation techniques.

The house is two blocks north of 11 Mile, 1 1/4 blocks west of Woodward. Selik's telephone number is 399-5287. The house will be open to the public 1-5 p.m. Sunday.

WITH SUMMER here, now's the time to give

your hard-working room air conditioner a "tune-up."

Because it does a good job of keeping you comfortable when hot, when humid weather sets in, it can easily be taken for granted.

But just like your automobile, your air conditioner won't run at peak efficiency unless it's maintained on a regular schedule.

This checklist can help you get the most from any room air conditioner this summer:

- Trim bushes and shrubs around the exterior of the unit. Free air circulation is essential to effective performance.
- Check the cooling coils, inside and out. Dirt and dust on the coils reduce efficiency. This accumulation is most likely to occur on the outside coils.
- If dirt is heavily encrusted, you may need the help of a professional who can steam clean the coils.
- Check the filter. Just as bushes can restrict

air flow on the outside, a dirty filter can restrict it on the inside.

Be sure to clean the filter and check it once a month for the entire cooling season.

- Some brands of air conditioners need annual fan motor oiling and drain tube cleaning.

IF YOU'RE not certain about the instructions for your room air conditioner, check your owner's manual so see what is recommended.

Be sure the hot air stays outside and cool air inside. This means doing any caulking or weatherstripping you overlooked last fall.

Install blinds or awnings on windows in direct sunlight.

Be sure you have drapes that close on windows without air conditioners.

Be sure fireplace flues are closed tightly.

Remember, too, the same insulation that helps keep your house warm in the winter will help keep it cool in the summer.

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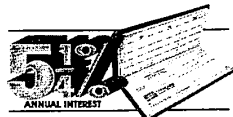
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